

[ 1 ]

# GOODMAN COUNTRY:

To his Worship

The City of LONDON.

Z I R,

**W**E have of late been in a woundy pudder and tattle about your Election of *Sheriffs*. The *King*, we thank him, chuses ours to our great content and quiet; but it seems it's your *right* and *property* to chuse yours; and we commend you for being so stout and stickling to maintain your *Priviledges*: Nor was it a little joy to us to hear how successful you were in carrying the *Cause*, and that your *Battel* and *Victory* was attended with such *Houting* and *Shouting*, and *flourishing* of *Handkerchiefs*, that the *Gyants* in *Yeild-Hall* never saw the like in all their born.

The Reason why the Country applauds the Cities Choice.

We know not well what men you have chosen, nor do we much care what they *are*, or what they have *been*, or what they will *be*; or what *Party* they are *of*, as long as they have money enough to qualifie them for the *Office*: But this we hope, *they are men for the purpose, and will stand stiffly up to preserve our Kings Life, Property, and Protestant Religion*. And then blefs me, and my *Dun Cow*, we care not a Fig for all the *Papists* in the World.

It is no matter who the City chooses for *Sheriffs*, so they are *Protestants* and *wealthy*.

For as silly a *Clown* as I am, I love my *Liberty* and my *Protestant Religion*; and would the *Pope* and his *Agents* had been *Poxt* and *bepist* when they seduced any of our *Volk* to *Poperie*: And were I *Heir* to a *Crown*, the old *Canting Rogue* the *Pope* should be *hang'd* before he should *wheel* me out of it, with the promise of giving me a *Heavenly* one for it, because I know he hath nothing to do there. And if I were the *Son* of a *King* that was murdered by his *Counsel* and *Contrivance*, I would see him at the *Devil*, before he should bubble me into his *Religion*, for then I must believe that his killing my *Father* was no murder, and that they *died* wrongfully who were *Executed* for having a hand in his *Death*. For our *Parson* hath often told us, that the *Pope* and his *Jesuits* hold it lawful to *poyson* or *stab*, or make away *Kings*, that are *Hereticks* or *Excommunicate*. The *Duce* take such a *Religion*, and a *Bots* on all *Rebels* and *Traytors*.

It is very irrational to change *Protestantism* for *Popery*.

Now hang me like a *Dög* if I am not as great a lover of my *Protestant Religion* as any of you all. For my *Grand-father*, and my *Father* which begot me, and bred me up in it, were very good *Scholars*, and could write and read, and they always told me, that I could not have learnt a better *Religion* in the World, for it taught me to be a true *Christian*, a good *Man*, and a *Loyal Subject* to the *King*, *God* blefs him. Besides, I am posselt of your or vive *Closes*, which formerly belonged to an *Abby*, and before I will lose my *Londs*, I will cut the *Popes* throat. *Zookes*, I will never change my *Religion* for that, which will kill my *King*, and rob me of my *Estate*.

Especially if a man have been bred up in the *Protestant Religion*, and is heir to a good *Estate*.

bur

The imprudence of the City in calling the Church of England men Protestants in Masquerade. Or saying that they are Popishly Affected.

But now Mr. City I must tell your Worship, that some Gentry-Volk of your Town tell us strange Stories of you, how that you make a woundy noise and buzzle in glorying of your late gained Victory, and that you Proudly and Insolently call all the Protestants that go to Church, by the names of Church-Papists, and Popishly affected.

Zump! what do you mean to do? Are you for running down the Popish Plot, and will you now disoblige and lose the best friends that ever you had, or will have, for carrying on such a Cause. Did ever men Write and speak, Preach and Dispute against the Whore of Babilon at that Rate, and with such Success as the Parsons of our Country do? And will you call these men Church-Papists?

I would a Blister had been on that worshipful Godfathers tongue, that gave the name of Protestants in Masquerade to our honest Church of England men. I am sure whatever the word signifies, he meant no good by it: And you cannot imagine how much we stomach the Word, since we now understand it; for say the Learned, the first Syllable of Masquerade is *Maß*, and *Maß* is a Popish word, Ergo, Masquerade Protestant is a Popish Protestant: a most ridiculous nonsensical Invention, to render odious all those that worship God in their Parish Churches. What if we in retort should say, that a Jesuit is a Popish Presbyterian, and a Presbyterian is a Protestant Jesuit? I think this would not be so absurd, as your calling the Church of England-men Popish Protestants.

Country Churchwardens and Sidemen can prove out of the Book of Martyrs, and the Statute Law of England, that the men of the Church of England are the best and truest sort of Protestants.

No sooner did our Church-wardens and Zidesmen hear that you, Mr. City, called all them that went to Church, by the names of Popishly Affected, and Protestants in Masquerade, but presently they went and searched the Book of Martyrs that was chained to a Desk in the corner of the Church, and there they found, that the people that were burnt, and hang'd, and executed in the bloody Reign of Queen Mary, were those that first modell'd and compil'd our Protestant Religion in the days of Edward the Sixth, or which profess'd and practis'd the outward Form of it in their Publick Churches or private Families.

Nay one of our Zidesmen, a parlous fellow at the Statute Book, hath often told our Parishioners, that Queen Elizabeth, King James, and King Charles were Protestants, and that in their Reigns the strongest and best Laws against Popery, and for the Establishment and Preservation of the true Protestant Religion were made by such men, that went constantly to our Parish Churches, to worship God in the same manner that we do in our Town.

And were these men then, both good, and true, and honest Protestants, and now must we be call'd Popishly Affected, and Protestants in Masquerade, because we worship God after their Example, and according to the Laws which they made? A Peascock on these villanous Nicknames; for you could not have done a greater injury to your selves, nor a greater kindness to the Popish Plot, than by vilifying that Church which the Papist hates, and would rejoice to see ruined.

Advice to leave off Nicknames.

Come, come, leave your madness and fooling, and learn to be sober and wise: for a Gentry man in our Town hath often said, that they are the true English Protestants, who profess and practise that Protestant Religion which was established by Law in the time of Queen Elizabeth, King James, and King Charles.

Or else your Sheriffs Elect are Protestants in Masquerade and Popishly Affected.

And if it be true which we hear, that your Sheriffs Elect have lately been at one of your Parish Churches, to hear Common-Prayer, and receive the Sacrament according to the Church of England: then by your leave, Mr. City, and according to your own Argument, you have chosen two Sheriffs that are Popishly Affected, and Protestants in Masquerade.

Well, Sir, If you have a mind to weaken the Interest of Protestantism in cutting

cutting off from you the best and greatest part of the Nation by such scandalous Characters, I am afraid you will afterwards treat them again with blows and bloody Persecution.

But if you have a longing after a *Holy War*, to fight the *Lords Batsch*, Pray keep your Armies within your Lines of *Excommunication*, as we call them. You have a *Magazine* of Arms, and a *Bank* of Money within your self. And therefore if you have a mind to fight, Draw your *Parties* out every morning to *Mile-End-Green*, *Moorfields*, or *Islington*; there let them combat all day; and at night receive them that come off alive into your own quarters: But be sure you march not one foot out of the Lines of *Excommunication*.

Where is the most proper place to manage a rebellious War.

For should you come once more into our Parts with your *Essex-Garters*, *Orange* coloured Scarfs, with great *Gold Fringe* at the end of them, you are like to have cold *Entertainment*, and no *Lodging*: for now we have no *Citadels*, no *Castles*, no *Fortes*, nor any *Remains* of a *Town* or *City Wall* to shelter your selves so much as from a shower of *Ruin*. And as for Money, alack, we have not enough by a great deal to pay our *Landlords*. And as for quartering you in our *Villages*, *Inns*, or *Alehouses*, our last prudent *Parliament* hath by a *Law* secured us against you.

The Country unfit to entertain a rebellious Army.

Nay our very women are grown stark mad to hear that there is any cause to fear another *Rebellion*, because that they know upon experience that they shall all then be rifled of their *Plate*, *Pewter* and *Brass*, their *Pigsties* and *Henroosts* robb'd, and they and their Daughters *ravisht*. And as for our younger sort, they are resolved never to part with their *Bodkins*, *Thimbles* and *silver Spoons*, because their *Sweet-hearts* made them swear at the giving of them, that they would never more lend such things upon *Publick Faith*.

The Country unwilling.

And as for our *Landlords*, though they hate *Popery* as much as your *Worship*, Mr. *City*, yet they cannot endure to think of rooting it out of *England* by an *Army*; because they know that their own houses then, will at one time or another be exposed to *Plunder*, their *Horses* stole out of *Field* or *Stables*, their *Coffers* broke open, *Rents* run all away into *Taxes*, and they and their *Children* be sent to *beg*, or serve as *Slaves* to those that will pity them so much, as to give them *Bread* and *Water*.

The Country unable to maintain another Civil War,

And I have heard three or four of our *Gentry* *Volk* that wear *Velvet Coats* on *Christmas* and *Easter-Day*, say, that if ever an *Army* of three score thousand men get into the heart of our *Kingdom*, they may easily conquer it, and when it is once conquered, they may make all the *People* their *Tenants*: For where *Power* is, there is *Right* and *Possession*; saith that *Varlet Hobbes*, And then the *Stile* of our *Petitions* will be, *May it please your Majesty, our Sovereign Lord the Army*:

Have a care of making an Army our Sovereign Lord and Tyrant.

Nor will your *Worship*, Mr. *City*, fare any better, for you shall be continually bridled and saddled as well as chain'd. Then no *Counters*, *Newgate*, *Ludgate*, or *Kings-Bench* will be allowed, for as fast as men become malefactors or run in debt, or break, they will presently take refuge under the wings of the *Army*, and live upon *Pay* and *Plunder*. Nay, the very *Apprentices*, if they do not like their *Masters*, will presently run to the *Army*, and be dubb'd *Freemen*.

The City utterly undone if they set up an Army.

Whatever may be the cause of your *Heats* and *Divisions*, we are sure, that none amongst us *clamor* and *rail* against the present Government, but the *disgusted*, *discontented*, and *indigent* persons: For we observed in our *Towns*, that the most active and violent men for *Petitioning*, were quondam *Committee-Men*, and *Sequestrators*, and those that were concerned in *Crown* and *Church-Lands*, and those that were decaying in their *Trades*; for men that have good *Estates*, and thrive in their *Callings*, will never be so mad and foolish to put Government into *Confusion* and *War*, since they only of all men must run the hazard of losing all they have.

None discontented at the present Government, but old Committee men, Sequestrators, Purchasers of Crown and Church Lands, and Bankrupts.



No War without Money, and no Money without insufferable Taxes. For as the contesting between parties for *Superiority* in a Nation will at last come to blows and fighting, so such a sort of Controversie cannot be maintain'd without *Money*. And as our late *unnatural War* begat such Taxes and Impositions, as *England* never heard of before, so another like War will revive the same, or put some men upon inventing others far more grievous and intolerable.

Folly to change a good condition for a bad one.

And then how like *fools* shall we all look, one upon another, when we have changed our *King and civil Government*, which secures our Rights, Liberties, Properties and Priviledges, for a *Sovereign Lord the Army*, and the tyranny of the Sword, which always plunders a People of these *Riches*, and oppresses them with *slavery and bondage*.

The City perhaps doth not intend Tumult and Rebellion.

Perhaps Mr. *City*, you are not now designing such a thing as this, and without a pair of *Spectacles* you cannot see those that are: But if it should come to pass (which God forbid) then you will say I am a *Conjurer*, and cry, *A vow to God, who would a thought it.*

But the Papists will drive them to it, unless speedily and prudently prevented.

No doubt, but very good and honest men were concern'd in those unhappy affairs of *Vorty*, and *Vorty one*; and had no other intention at first, but to remove or redress some grievances which they then said were in Church and State: Yet when these good men went to *Reformation*, how soon were they carried off from the Jack they aimed at, by an *undiscernable* byas that was in the Bowl, and *unexpected rub* in the way. And then by the wiles and stratagems of *Jesuited Politicians*, how strangely were they carried to all manner of *extravagancies*; insomuch that they found they could not be safe, without being the monsters of *Wickedness and Villany*. And the same restless Spirits, and *Machiavillian Brains* are now at work, and unless there be a very *speedy, prudent and vigilant* care taken to cool and moderate the furious temper and *fery zeal* of some that are call'd *Protestants*, I dare foretell, you will have another *civil War*, and far more *bloody* than the former.

Lay aside Parties and Factions.

It's no matter who are *Presbyterians*, or *Independents*, or *Anabaptists*, so they be for the Protestant Religion and Interest. And as long as they are for that, the Church of *England-men* heartily joy with them. But if these several persuasions (to gratifie the Papists, and further their designs) shall persist to vilifie the Church of *England-men*, by saying they are *Papishly affected*, or *Protestants in Masquerade*; Then the Church of *England-men* have nothing else to do, but to commit their Cause to God, and to *acquiesce* in his Providence, with this Declaration to the World: That *Fire and Fagot* will never make them *Papists*; and *Sequestration, Imprisonment and Death* will never force them to be *Fanatics and Rebels*.

The Church of England-men are resolved neither to be Papists nor Rebels.

Thus wishing you all *Peace and Prosperity*, and to keep out of the need of another Act of *Indemnity*.

I rest your *Worships*

true and hearty lover

and humble servant

Honest Country